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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/787,184

02/27/2004

Toshihiro Terashima

AIA-0153

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06/28/2004

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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/787,184	Applicant(s) TERASHIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Thanh-Tam T. Le	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/27/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kajinuma (6,132,258).

Kajinuma, figures 1, 5, 11 and 14, discloses an electrical connector comprising:

first and second connectors (10 and 20), which are connectable to each other in a predetermined connecting direction;

wherein the first connector comprising a housing (12), a plurality of contacts (14) supported by the housing, and a metal reinforcement member (16) fixed to the housing and extending in a first direction perpendicular to the connecting direction;

wherein the reinforcement member including a pair of engagement projections (16b);

wherein the second connector comprising an engagement groove (22a) engageable with the reinforcement member; and

wherein the first and second connectors are permitted to be offset from each other in the first direction intersecting the connecting direction and guided with respect to each other for connection thereof when the pair of engagement projections of the reinforcement member are introduced into the engagement groove.

Regarding claim 2, figure 5, wherein the second connector comprising a housing (22), and a plurality of contacts (24) supported by the housing thereof, and wherein the engagement groove is provided in the housing of the second connector.

Regarding claim 3, wherein the reinforcement member including two reinforcement members, and the engagement groove including two engagement grooves, and wherein the two reinforcement members are respectively provided in association with the two engagement grooves.

Regarding claim 4, figure 1, wherein the housing of the first connector comprising a pair of opposed side walls extending in the first direction, and a pair of fixture grooves (12a) respectively extending along the side walls, and wherein the two reinforcement members are respectively fixed in the corresponding fixture grooves of the housing of the first connector.

Regarding claim 5, figures 4 and 5, wherein the housing of the first connector having generally rectangular shape as seen in the connecting direction, and wherein the engagement projections of the two reinforcement members are disposed in the vicinity of four corners of the rectangular housing of the first connector.

Regarding claim 9, figure 11, wherein the reinforcement members each including a main portion (16a) extending along the corresponding fixture groove, and wherein the engagement projections of each of the reinforcement members project from opposite ends of the main portion in the first direction.

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Regarding claim 10, wherein the first connector comprising a connector mounted on a circuit board, and the reinforcement member is soldered to the circuit board (column 3, lines 34-37).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the reference discloses the engagement projections of the reinforcement member including first oblique guide surfaces and the engagement groove associated with the reinforcement member including a pair of second oblique guide surfaces, in combination with the other claimed elements of the embodiments recited.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

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7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TL.
06/22/04.



T. Le